

## CLAIMS

- 1     1.     A sterilization tray assembly for medical instruments, said assembly comprising  
2             a unitary base including  
3             a plurality of tubes defining first passages, each first passage hav-  
4     ing open upper and lower ends,  
5             a first web having a periphery and connecting and supporting said  
6     tubes in parallel spaced-apart relation so that a fluid can circulate around and between  
7     said tubes;  
8             instrument supports at the lower ends of the plurality of tubes for  
9     supporting medical instruments placed in said first passages while allowing a fluid to cir-  
10    culate through said first passages, and  
11            a unitary cover for seating on said base so as to cover said instruments.
- 1     2.     The assembly defined in claim 1 wherein the upper ends of the first passages are  
2     flared.
- 1     3.     The assembly defined in claim 1 wherein said base and said cover include inter-  
2     fitting latching surfaces which, when the cover is seated on the base, releasably secure the  
3     cover to the base.
- 1     4.     The assembly defined in claim 1  
2             wherein said first web constitutes a top wall of the base, and  
3             further including a peripheral web extending down from said first web around  
4     said plurality of tubes, said peripheral web constituting a side wall of the base as well as  
5     defining a seating surface for the cover.
- 1     5.     The assembly defined in claim 1 wherein said first web comprises a top web  
2     which extends between the upper ends of the tubes and constitutes a top wall of the base.

1 6. The assembly defined in claim 5 and further including one or more receptacles in  
2 said tray wall.

1 7. The assembly defined in claim 5 and further including graphics formed on said  
2 top wall and indicating the contents of said first passages.

1 8. The assembly defined in claim 1 wherein the instrument supports comprise  
2 bridges at the lower ends of the tubes which partially occlude the lower ends of the first  
3 passages.

1 9. The assembly defined in claim 1 wherein the instrument supports comprise inte-  
2 rior flanges at the lower ends of said plurality of tubes.

1 10. The assembly defined in claim 1 wherein said cover includes  
2 a plurality of sleeves defining second passages, each second passage hav-  
3 ing open upper and lower ends, said lower ends having substantially the same cross-  
4 sections as the upper ends of said first passages, and  
5 a second web having a periphery and connecting and supporting the  
6 sleeves in parallel spaced-apart relation so that when the cover is seated on said base, the  
7 corresponding first and second passages are co-linear.

1 11. The assembly defined in claim 10 wherein the second passages are longer than the  
2 first passages.

1 12. The assembly defined in claim 10 wherein the upper ends of the second passages  
2 are smaller than the lower ends of the second passages.

1 13. The assembly defined in claim 12 wherein the cross-sections of the second pas-  
2 sages are larger than those of the first passages.

1 14. The assembly defined in claim 10 and further including  
2 first keying surfaces distributed around the periphery of the first web, and  
3 second keying surfaces distributed around the periphery of the second web, said  
4 first and second keying surfaces being shaped and arranged to key together as the  
5 cover is seated on the base to bring said first and second passages into axial alignment.

1 15. The assembly defined in claim 14 wherein  
2 the first web comprises the top wall of the base and the base also includes a side  
3 wall extending down from the top wall of the base,  
4 the second web comprises the top wall of the cover and the cover also includes a  
5 side wall extending down from the top wall of the cover,  
6 the first keying surfaces comprise exterior keyways in the side wall of the base  
7 which extend parallel to said tubes, and  
8 the second keying surfaces comprise interior keys in the side wall of the cover  
9 which extend parallel to said sleeves, said keys being arranged to key into said keyways  
10 as the cover is seated on the base.

1 16. The assembly defined in claim 15 wherein the keys have projections extending  
2 below the bottom of the cover side wall so that said projections can be engaged in the  
3 keyways while the side wall of the cover is still spaced above the top wall of the base.

1 17. The assembly defined in claim 10 wherein the side wall of the base has a lower  
2 edge that defines a plane which is spaced below the lower ends of said tubes.

1 18. A sterilization tray assembly for medical instruments, said assembly comprising  
2 a base including a top wall, a plurality of tubes extending down from said top wall  
3 in parallel spaced-apart relation, said tubes defining first passages, each first passage  
4 having an open upper end at said top wall and a lower end, instrument supports at the  
5 lower ends of the plurality of tubes for supporting medical instruments placed in said first

6 passages while allowing a fluid to circulate through said first passages and a peripheral  
7 wall extending down from said top wall so as to surround said tubes, and  
8 a cover for seating on the base so as to cover said instruments, said cover includ-  
9 ing a top wall, a plurality of sleeves extending down from said top wall of the cover in  
10 parallel spaced-apart relation, said sleeves defining second passages, each second pas-  
11 sages having open upper and lower ends, said lower ends having substantially the same  
12 cross-sections as the upper ends of said first passages and a peripheral wall extending  
13 down from the top wall of the cover so as to surround said sleeves whereby when the  
14 cover is seated on the base, the corresponding first and second passages are co-linear and  
15 the peripheral wall of the cover overlaps the peripheral wall of the base.

1 19. The assembly defined in claim 18 and further including  
2 first keying surfaces distributed around the peripheral wall of the base, and  
3 second keying surfaces distributed around the peripheral wall of the cover, said  
4 first and second keying surfaces being shaped and arranged to key together as the cover is  
5 seated on the base.

1 20. The assembly defined in claim 19 wherein the first keying surfaces comprise exte-  
2 rior keyways extending perpendicular to the top wall of the base, and  
3 the second keying surfaces comprise interior keys extending perpendicular to the  
4 top wall of the cover.

1 21. The assembly defined in claim 20 wherein said keys have projections which ex-  
2 tend below the peripheral wall of the cover so that said projections can be engaged in said  
3 keyways while the peripheral wall of the cover is still spaced above the top wall of the  
4 base.